

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph that begins on page 5, line 16 and ends on page 6, line 5 as follows:

As a result of extensive research aimed at addressing the aforementioned problems, the inventors discovered that these problems could be resolved by using a specific water-soluble high polymer compound. Specifically, a water-soluble lubricant for warm or hot metal forming that possesses excellent lubricity and release properties, has less of an adverse effect on the operating environmental and operating efficiency, and can be readily treated as wastewater was perfected by using a high polymer compound ~~whose molecule have~~ comprising at least one imide group and whose weight-average molecular weight falls within a specific range.

Please amend the paragraph on page 6, lines 7-10 as follows:

(1) A water-soluble lubricant for warm or hot metal forming, comprising a high polymer compound ~~whose molecule have~~ comprising at least one imide group and whose weight-average molecular weight is 1000 to 1,000,000.

Please amend the paragraph that begins on page 7, line 17 and ends on page 8, line 9 as follows:

The water-soluble lubricant of this invention for warm or hot metal forming comprises a high polymer compound ~~whose molecule have~~ comprising at least one imide group and whose weight-average molecular weight is 1000 to 1,000,000. For this reason, the lubricity and release properties are the same as, or better than, those of conventional graphite lubricants; there is minimal soiling in the area around the machinery, which is a situation different from that observed with such graphite lubricants; and there is less of an adverse effect on the operating environment or of a reduction in the operating efficiency. In particular, it is possible to enhance the flocculation treatment properties and to reduce the COD value observed following a flocculation treatment and a subsequent wastewater treatment.

Please amend the paragraph that begins on page 9, line 13 and ends on page 10, line 11 as follows:

The high polymer compound comprising the water-soluble lubricant for warm or hot metal forming of this invention [[has]] **comprises at least one** imide group in the molecules thereof. The term "imide group" refers to an amide that has the imino group (=NH) and is commonly produced by the reaction between ammonia and an acid anhydride. In the case of an acid that generates an acid anhydride by heating alone, an imide may also be produced by heating an ammonium salt thereof. It is possible, for example, to imidate maleic anhydride with ammonia gas. In this invention, no particular restrictions are imposed on the method for forming imide group in the molecule of the high polymer compound. The method may, for example, involve homopolymerizing an imidated derivative obtained by imidating a carboxylic acid having carbon-carbon double bonds, or it may involve copolymerizing this homopolymer with another monomer. Alternatively, it is possible to imidate a homopolymer of a carboxylic acid having carbon-carbon double bonds or the like, or a copolymer of this homopolymer with another monomer.